

HOUSE No. 2052

By Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, petition of Anne M. Paulsen and Kay Khan for legislation to require yielding the right-of-way to public transit buses reentering traffic. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO BUSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 In chapter 89 of the General Laws, insert after section 11 a new
2 section:—

3 Section 12. Right-of-Way: Yielding to Buses.

4 (a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking a transit bus shall yield
5 the right-of-way to the bus if all of the following conditions are
6 present:

7 (1) The transit bus has entirely exited an active traffic lane to
8 board or deboard passengers at a designated bus stop, and is
9 attempting to reenter the lane from which it exited.

10 (2) Directional signals on the transit bus are flashing to indicate
11 that the bus is preparing to merge with traffic.

12 (3) The transit bus is equipped with a yield right-of-way sign
13 on the left rear of the bus. The sign shall be both of the following:

14 (A) Designed to warn a person operating a vehicle approaching
15 the rear of the bus that the person is required to yield the right-of-
16 way to the bus when the bus is entering traffic.

17 (B) Illuminated by a flashing light when the bus is signaling in
18 preparation for entering a traffic lane after having stopped to
19 receive or discharge passengers.

20 (b) Nothing in this section requires a transit agency to install
21 the yield right-of-way sign described in paragraph (3) of subdivi-
22 sion (a).

23 (c) This section does not relieve the driver of a transit bus from
24 the duty to drive the bus with due regard for the safety of all per-
25 sons and property.

26 (d) As used in this section, the term “transit bus” means a
27 motor bus or trackless trolley operated by the Massachusetts Bay
28 Transportation Authority or by a regional transit authority, as
29 defined in Chapter 161B.